



**Charlotte County Government
Board of County Commissioners
Boater Revolving Fund Grant Application**

Fiscal Year 2024 (10/1/2023 to 9/30/2024) – Application Deadline 1/31/2023

Name of Organization: Heal Our Harbor, Inc.
Principal Officer: Richard Whitman, Ph.D. Title: Director
Organization Address: 798 Spring Lake Blvd. NW, Port Charlotte, FL
Primary Contact: Richard Whitman, Ph.D. Title: Director
Telephone Number: 219 406 0924 Email: RichardWhitman.phd@gmail.com

Any project for which funds are requested must have a public purpose, and must apply to one or more of the following categories: (select applicable categories)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterway Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Debris Removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Law Enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Dredging |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Boater Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of Marine Life & Aquatic Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Aids to Navigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Boat Ramps & Launching Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Boaters' Safety & Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Projects for Boater & Waterway Enhancement | |

Project Name: Charlotte Harbor Ambassador Program

Project Description: (See Attached) Heal Our Harbor, a 501(c)3 organization, seeks funding to develop a Charlotte Harbor Ambassadors (CHA) training Program for designated public aquatic areas of Charlotte County.

Explain how the project benefits the community as a whole: (See Attached) Seasonal, full-time residents, and visitors will benefit from a deeper understanding of the value, history and environmental challenges confronting the harbor.

Total Amount of Grant Funding Requested: \$9,600.00

Total Amount of Matching Funds Applicant is Contributing (if any): \$3,100.00

Boater Safety/Education and Boater Recreation Projects require 50% applicant matching funds. Is Applicant requesting supplemental Local Boater Improvement funds to pay all, or a portion of the 50% required match?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, provide justification. _____

Project Location: Charlotte County

Estimated Completion Date: August 31, 2024

Are there other sources of funding for this project? Heal Our Harbor base funds only.
Tuition is free.

Is a permit required for this project? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, list each, its type, and status. Attach all permits that have been issued or applied for: _____

Complete attached budget. Attach additional supporting documentation pertinent to your request.

Applicants should be available to the Marine Advisory Committee on the date of review to answer questions regarding the project. Dates of review will be posted on the Charlotte County public website at [Marine Advisory Committee | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/marine-advisory-committee).


 Principle Officer or BCC Department Director Signature

Jan. 30, 2023
 Date

Richard Whitman
 Printed Name

Director
 Title

You may submit your signed application via e-mail to Jim.Darden@CharlotteCountyFL.gov. You may also mail or drop your application off to the following address:

Charlotte County Fiscal Services Division
 Attn: Jim Darden
 18500 Murdock Circle
 Suite B-109
 Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Applications must be received by 1/31/2023 at the Fiscal Services Division address to be considered for the FY 2024 grant cycle. Please direct questions regarding this granting opportunity to Jim Darden at 941-764-5532.

Charlotte Harbor Ambassador Program

MAC Grant Proposal
Heal Our Harbor, Inc.
Charlotte County, FL
Requested Funding, \$9600

Description

Heal Our Harbor, Inc. (HOH) is a nonprofit 501c3 organizations based in Charlotte County whose mission is to provide scientific information, education and perspective on the environmental health of the Charlotte Harbor watershed. HOH proposes to develop and provide a unique adult educational opportunity for the community that combines fundamental information on the ecology of Charlotte Harbor and its implications to our county's economy, sustainability and quality of life. Specifically, *the described educational program emphasizes how a healthy Charlotte Harbor, its enjoyment, and uses are intertwined*. Upon completion of this program Charlotte Harbor Ambassadors will receive shirts that will identify them when they are in a public setting where individuals are interacting in the harbor ecosystem. These volunteers will be ready to share information with visitors and the community about the relevance of our harbor and its needs. Ambassadors will interact with the public, sharing information, interpreting nature and enthusiasm for our most prized natural resource.

Heal Our Harbor's Ambassador training program will increase the public's awareness of the value of Charlotte Harbor through one-on-one discussions and activities. Examples of activities might include, for example:

1. Periodic visitation to inspect and report on current conditions of natural areas.
2. Monitor water quality using Heal Our Harbor's analytical capabilities or sampling for professional laboratory analyses.
3. Display and distribute appropriate environmental information.

The Charlotte Harbor region is blessed with highly experienced and skilled scientists, managers and regulatory community that is fully capable of inspiring and teaching classroom and field modules. We will draw upon these resources which could include regional municipal, county, state, federal officials as well as academics, captains, ecologists, hydrologists, and nonprofit organizational representatives. Select individuals will be invited to lecture within their topic of

expertise discussing not only technical aspects of the subject matter but community and environmental implications. Coupled field trips to key public parks and protected areas will be conducted. Hands-on practical activities will be planned. This may include topics such as water quality analyses, plant and animal identification and ecology.

An important component of the Heal Our Harbor program is educational outreach. HOH core group includes educators with decades of experience in environmental education. Project principles and experience include Phyllis Wojcik - MS, Environmental Education; David Schutz, MS, MA - Environmental Education; Dianna Whitman, MS Ed - Academic counselor/administrator; and Bruce Wojcik, Natural Areas Restoration, and principle contact, Richard Whitman, MS, PhD - professor and NPS, USGS research ecologist/manager.

HOH compliments an already robust group of regional environmental programs but the Charlotte Harbor Ambassador program is specifically focused on adult education with the objective of training potential volunteers. The role of Heal Our Harbor is to develop and manage the Charlotte Harbor Ambassador training program. This includes arranging financing, teaching resources, logistics, recruiting subject matter experts and promoting the program. Thus, Heal Our Harbor seeks to develop visible representatives for the community sharing positive messages for responsible usage and enjoyment of Charlotte Harbor.

Benefits to the community as a whole

The subtropical waters and lands of Charlotte County are among, if not the most prized natural resources in our community servicing our economy, quality of life, recreation, land values and, of course, with its own intrinsic worth. It helps account for our county's growth, prosperity and visitation. The county is aware of the importance of our watershed as evidenced by its highly respected public land management system, abundant public access, and designated natural areas. Nonetheless, accelerated growth and land use has stressed not only Charlotte Harbor itself, but practical constraints have limited the full potential ecological services that these resources might provide. Seasonal and full-time residents, visitors and the business community would benefit from a deeper understanding of the value, history and environmental challenges confronting the harbor and its watershed.

Charlotte Harbor Ambassadors can help fill this gap by providing visitors and the general public information needed to more fully enjoy the harbor, while respecting our waters and its aquatic inhabitants. Heal Our Harbor believes that the Ambassador program in the coming years will be both infectious and sustaining. There is a huge pool of potential volunteers in the county, many well motivated and many highly skilled.

Scope

Heal Our Harbor, a 501(c)3 organization, seeks funding to develop a Charlotte Harbor Ambassadors (CHA) program for designated public aquatic areas of Charlotte County. CHA is a continuing adult environmental education and volunteer program that seeks to train and motivate individuals to share information with the public addressing the importance and responsible use of these precious resources. The initial training program will consist of classes and field trips, each led by local experts in their field. These speakers may include county, municipal, state, or federal officials, non-government agencies such as academics, nonprofits, and environmental educational experts. Volunteers will be taught about the general ecology, the flora and fauna identification, protected species and habitats, cultural and historical significance, wise and legal use, and principles of good stewardship. Interpretation skills will be stressed. Field trips to key public areas that illustrate the lessons and principles learned will be included. Ambassadors will be able to share their newly acquired information/knowledge with individuals they encounter. In this initial year, CHA training program with focus on public watershed lands and waters. At Heal Our Harbor's cost, we will continue to work with Charlotte County Water Quality Manager, Brandon Moody, monitoring water quality of Peace and Myakka Rivers (Live Oak Point Park and El Jobean Fishing Pier, respectively). These are only two locations of many public facilities (e.g. Tippecanoe, Darst, Bayshore, Port Charlotte Beach, Harbor Heights, Darst, Spring Lake) that might benefit from volunteer participation.

Heal Our Harbor, Inc. believes that the proposed Charlotte Harbor Ambassador program is distinct from other regional environmental education programs in that it focuses on recruiting individuals providing specific training on aquatic ecology Charlotte Harbor thus enhancing volunteers' ability to share information with the public in everyday life.

Harbor Ambassador Training Conceptual Example Syllabus

1. What is an estuary?
 - a. Intro. estuary habitat & processes
 - b. Weather and climate
 - c. Currents, tides, streams, groundwater
2. Water Quality
 - a. Nutrients
 - b. Transparency
 - c. Dissolved Oxygen
 - d. Esthetics, economics implications
3. The plankton: friends and foes
 - a. Harmful Algal Blooms, blue-greens, red tide and microbes
 - b. Role of animal and plant plankton in estuarine ecology
4. Bottom Dwelling Plants and Animals
 - a. Plants
 - b. Animals
 - c. Leave no scar behind, reef protection
5. Shore and watershed plants
 - a. Native and exotic aquatic plants
 - b. Mangroves value and protection
 - c. Riparian watershed protection
6. Fish
 - a. Keystone fish of Charlotte Harbor
 - b. Prey fish
 - c. Nursery habitat
 - d. Fish management, seasons-why the fuss
7. Wildlife
 - a. Reptiles
 - b. Birds
 - c. Mammals
 - d. Wildlife protection and management
8. Being a responsible and effective Harbor Ambassador*
 - a. Communication skills
 - b. Teaching techniques
 - c. Observational development
 - d. Reporting information

*May include two sessions

Example Readings: Charlotte Harbor NEP Special Issue of Florida Scientist “The State of Our Watersheds and Estuaries” 2013.

Budget**Boater Revolving Fund Grant Application-2024****Heal Our Harbor, Inc.****Harbor Ambassador Program****Contractual Expenses**

Advertising expense	400		400
Lab expense	900	900	1800
Venue	1,200		1200
Total Estimated Contractual	2,500	900	3,400

Materials

Teaching Supplies	1,600		1600
Student Supplies	1,200	500	1700
Classroom Supplies		1200	1200
Testing equipment/ reagents	500	500	1000
Interpretive Aids	1,700		1700
Total Estimated Materials	5,000	2,200	7,200

Promotional Materials

Volunteer apparel	1,000		1000
Promotion (ads, flyers, presentations)	1,100		1100
Total Estimated Promotional	2,100	0	2,100

Grand Total	9,600	3,100	12,700
--------------------	--------------	--------------	---------------

Contact: Richard Whitman, Ph.D., Director, Heal Our Harbor.

Richardwhitman.phd@gmail.com, 219 406 0924

State of Florida

Department of State

I certify from the records of this office that HEAL OUR HARBOR, INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, filed on April 4, 2022, effective April 4, 2022.


The document number of this corporation is N22000003668.

I further certify that said corporation has paid all fees due this office through December 31, 2023, that its most recent annual report/uniform business report was filed on January 8, 2023, and that its status is active.

I further certify that said corporation has not filed Articles of Dissolution.

*Given under my hand and the
Great Seal of the State of Florida
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Eighth day of January, 2023*




Secretary of State

Tracking Number: 0990695949CC

To authenticate this certificate, visit the following site, enter this number, and then follow the instructions displayed.

<https://services.sunbiz.org/Filings/CertificateOfStatus/CertificateAuthentication>

2023 FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT

DOCUMENT# N22000003668

Entity Name: HEAL OUR HARBOR, INC.**Current Principal Place of Business:**798 SPRING LAKE BLVD NW
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33952**Current Mailing Address:**798 SPRING LAKE BLVD NW
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33952 US**FEI Number:** 88-1382931**Certificate of Status Desired:** Yes**Name and Address of Current Registered Agent:**WHITMAN, RICHARD L
798 SPRING LAKE BLVD NW
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33952 US*The above named entity submits this statement for the purpose of changing its registered office or registered agent, or both, in the State of Florida.***SIGNATURE:**

Electronic Signature of Registered Agent

Date

Officer/Director Detail :

Title CEO, DIRECTOR
 Name WHITMAN, RICHARD L
 Address 798 SPRING LAKE BLVD NW
 City-State-Zip: PORT CHARLOTTE FL 33952

Title SECRETARY, DIRECTOR
 Name WOJCIK, BRUCE
 Address 26383 SEMINOLE LAKES BLVD
 City-State-Zip: PUNTA GORDA FL 33955

Title DIRECTOR
 Name DIANNA, WHITMAN
 Address 798 SPRING LAKE BLVD NW
 City-State-Zip: PORT CHARLOTTE FL 33952

Title VP, DIRECTOR
 Name WOJCIK, PHYLLIS
 Address 26383 SEMINOLE LAKES BLVD
 City-State-Zip: PUNTA GORDA FL 33955

Title TREASURER, DIRECTOR
 Name SCHUTZ, DAVID
 Address 2531 RIO LARGO CT
 City-State-Zip: PUNTA GORDA FL 33950

Title DIRECTOR
 Name BERLON, CHERYL
 Address 1444 SEA GULL CT
 City-State-Zip: PUNTA GORDA FL 33950

*I hereby certify that the information indicated on this report or supplemental report is true and accurate and that my electronic signature shall have the same legal effect as if made under oath; that I am an officer or director of the corporation or the receiver or trustee empowered to execute this report as required by Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, and that my name appears above, or on an attachment with all other like empowered.***SIGNATURE:** RICHARD L WHITMAN

CEO

01/08/2023

Electronic Signature of Signing Officer/Director Detail

Date